

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ORM-02 VO-03 SCA-01 PA-02 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8911

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS: SREF

SUBJECT: LEBANESE REFUGEES

1. FOLLOWING IS EXTRACT FROM JORDAN TIMES ARTICLE OF JULY 30 ON LEBANESE SITUATION: BEGIN QUOTE LEBANESE WAR VICTIMS LIVING OUTSIDE LEBANON COULD APPLY FOR ENTRY INTO UNITED STATES AS REFUGEES UNDER A NEW US POLICY, SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY SAID IN WASHINGTON YESTERDAY. THE MASSACHUSETTS DEMOCRAT, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE ON REFUGEES, SAID THE WAR VICTIMS COULD APPLY FOR ENTRY TO THE US AT AMERICAN EMBASSIES IN ATHENS, ROME, FRANKFURT AND VIENNA. IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES HAVE TOLD OFFICIALS TO BE LENIENT AND SYMPATHETIC WITH LEBANESE NATIONALS CURRENTLY IN THE UNITED STATES WHO ARE TEMPORARILY UNABLE TO RETURN TO LEBANON BECAUSE OF THE CIVIL WAR. SUCH LEBANESE MAY ALSO BE ALLOWED TO WORK IN THE US IF NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES WHILE WAITING FOR APPROPRIATE TIME TO RETURN TO LEBANON. SENATOR KENNEDY SAID IN A STATEMENT THAT THE NEW POLICY WAS OUTLINED IN A JULY 27 LETTER TO HIM FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT, END QUOTE.

2. LEBANESE PRESS HAS PICKED UP JORDAN TIMES ARTICLE WHICH IS DATELINED DAMASCUS AND ATTRIBUTED TO REUTERS AND WE HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED INQUIRIES.

3. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT THERE ARE ESTIMATED TO BE UPWARDS OF HALF MILLION LEBANESE QUOTE REFUGEES UNQUOTE IN SYRIA AT PRESENT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE
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ON WHAT, IF ANY, CONDITIONAL ENTRY PROGRAM IS CONTEMPLATED

FOR LEBANESE. SPECIFICALLY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE PRESS
GUIDANCE AND SUGGESTED TEXT TO BE HANDED TO MANY INQUIRERS
WE EXPECT AS A RESULT OF THE JORDAN TIMES ARTICLE.

4. POST HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL NIV APPLICATIONS FROM SPOUSE
OR CHILDREN OF LEBANESE WHO ARE NOW IN US AND WHO APPLIED FOR
ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS SOON AFTER BEING GRANTED ENTRY AS
TEMPORARY VISITORS. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'
GUIDANCE ON SUCH CASES. SUCH APPLICATIONS HAVE SO FAR BEEN
REFUSED AND APPLICANTS TOLD THAT FAMILY MEMBER IN US WOULD
HAVE TO OBTAIN ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS AND THEN PROCEED WITH
PETITION PROCEDURE. WE EXPECT SUCH POTENTIAL IV CASES HERE
WILL INCREASE SHARPLY IN NEAR FUTURE.
PELLETREAU

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